Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

MDP
Maryland Department of Planning

Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP
Secretary

Matthew J. Power
Deputy Secretary

Press Release

Maryland Department of Planning honored for achievement in GIS work

Recognition for mapping application, analysis for PlanMaryland, redistricting, legislative work

SAN DIEGO – The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) this evening received a Special Achievement in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) award at the 2012 Esri International User Conference at the San Diego Convention Center. This award recognizes outstanding work with GIS technology.

MDP provides data, trend analysis, research assistance, policy development and implementation support for local governments, communities, businesses, and organizations. It also provides technical assistance, local program review and planning design services for Maryland's counties and municipalities. MDP has been a major user of GIS technology for more than 20 years. Multiple major GIS programs have been undertaken in the past year to support planning applications.

The award recognition was for a project to perform spatial analysis and to produce maps and GIS applications in support of PlanMaryland, the state's first comprehensive plan for sustainable growth and development. GIS applications were also used for broader Smart Growth and Planning Analysis initiatives such as the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012.

MDP is also a major participant in the O'Malley-Brown Administration's MD iMAP initiative. The department also used GIS extensively during 2011 to support congressional and legislative redistricting applications and analysis.

"Good information is essential for good government. Geographic Information Systems enable us to assemble maps and related information to track and inform our smart growth programs and policies. They also allow us to better communicate these issues to citizens. The technology has evolved to be easier to use and to give citizens access to interactive maps through their browsers – allowing us to not only share our maps, but to gain citizen input directly on the maps. MDP capitalized on the capability of GIS in the development of PlanMaryland, our state development plan," said Secretary of Planning Richard E. Hall, AICP. "State planning has been using GIS since 1974 when the Maryland Automated Geographic Information (MAGI) system was developed. Over almost 40 years MDP has continued to push to boundaries of what GIS can do to advance smart growth for our communities, natural areas, the Chesapeake bay and generally to improve quality of life in Maryland. In the early days we could only perform simple analysis – and that only for a small group of technicians at one location. Today we are delivering fully featured interactive maps via the web to local government partners, allowing them to leverage the power of Maryland's data."

The SAG (Special Achievement in GIS) Award ceremony was held at the annual Esri International User Conference. The ceremony was presided over by Jack Dangermond, president and founder of Environmental Systems Research Institute, or simply Esri as it is known today, a major developer of geographic information systems software and geodatabase management applications based in Redlands, Calif.

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